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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3229**

March 26, 2001

General Robert Flowers, Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 203 14

Dear General Flowers:

I am writing to express my concern about the inadequacy of funding allocated by the Army Corps of Engineers for remediation of the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) property, a Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) site located in Niagara County, New York, in my Congressional District.

During World War II, the Army manufactured TNT at a facility on the 7,500-acre LOOW site, which included a power plant, hospital, fire department, water supply system, and waste treatment system. Between 1956 and 1960, a portion of the site was used to produce high-energy rocket fuel. As Department of Defense operations decreased over the years, property was sold; today the property is owned by individual homeowners, corporations, a local school district, and federal, state and local governments.

Recently, I met with Lieutenant Colonel Glen DeWillie of the Buffalo District to discuss the status of the Corps' efforts with respect to the LOOW site. The Corps estimates that the work that remains to fully remediate the site will cost approximately \$29 million, with funding coming from the DERP-FUDS program. This estimate includes the cost of studies, risk assessments, and remediation tasks necessary to restore the site so that it no longer poses a risk to public health or the environment.

It is my understanding that the Buffalo District's capacity for conducting remedial studies and activities at the site in FY2002 is \$4 million. With these funds, the Buffalo District could make significant progress toward remediating the site by: 1) demolishing a formerly used wastewater treatment plant; 2) conducting a comprehensive risk assessment of the entire property; 3) investigating underground pipelines; and 4) conducting a feasibility study of clean areas within the site to certify environmental compliance.

It is my further understanding that the Buffalo District has corresponded with the New York District, which manages the DERP-FUDS program, to request \$4 million for work at the LOOW site in FY2002. In response, the Buffalo District was told that it should anticipate receiving only \$1 million. This is unacceptable.

*March 26, 2001*  
*DRAFT HAS NOT BEEN SENT - PLEASE REVIEW & PROVIDE ALL COMMENTS TODAY. WE HAVE TO INFORM OFFICE*  
*Tom Switzer*

*I am a little uncomfortable throwing out this number*

Remediation of this very significant FUDS site is of the utmost importance to myself and my constituents, who live, work, and learn in and around the LOOW property. The speed with which the site can be remediated, thereby protecting public health and the environment, depends entirely on adequate annual funding for the Buffalo District. I urge you to do everything possible to allocate sufficient funds for the Buffalo District to make timely progress toward complete remediation of the LOOW site.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



JOHN J. LaFALCE  
Member of Congress

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cc: LTC Glen DeWillie, Buffalo District

## FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Congressman John J. LaFalce

Room 4 17 Federal Building

111 W. Huron Street

Buffalo, NY 14202

716-846-4056

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DATE: 4-2-01

TO: Major Hall

FAX NO.: 879-4195

FROM: Mary Brennan-Taylor

Number of Pages (including cover sheet:

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For Col. DeWitt's review - We would like  
to mail out ASAP.  
J. Hunt

Suggested changes to paragraphs 4 & 5:

It is my understanding that the Buffalo District could make significant progress toward remediating the site in FY 2002 by:

It is my further understanding that the Buffalo District has corresponded with the New York District, which manages the DERP-FUDS program in the North Atlantic Division, to request the funds needed for the proposed work at the LOOW site in FY 2002. In response, the Buffalo District was informally advised that, based on the past history of limited funding being available under the DERP-FUDS program and the many other needs within the Division, that it should significantly reduce the scope of its planned FY 2002 efforts.

MARY KAT,

HERE ARE MY SUGGESTED  
CHANGES TO LOOW LTR FROM  
LAFACE. DRAFT  
PLEASE CALL ME X4220

TJS  
TODAY 4/2  
CONCERN, MKF